



# City Administrator's Report

June 2008

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

James L. Armstrong  
City Administrator  
[jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
(805) 564-5301

Tony Ruggieri  
City TV Supervisor  
[truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
(805) 564-5311

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
Key Meetings .....	2
City Council Meetings .....	2
Planning Commission.....	2
Community Events.....	2
Flags on State Street .....	2
City Administrator's Office.....	2
What's Going on Inside Santa Barbara? .....	2
Commute Smart: The Long Ride Home .....	3
Tune into the Garden Wise Guys. ....	3
Airport Department.....	3
Airport Receives FAA Outstanding Airport Award! .....	3
Passenger Count Up Slightly. ....	3
Community Development Department.....	3
Planning Commission.....	3
Finance Department .....	4
April TOT down 8.6%. ....	4
Fire Department .....	5
Wildland Fire Supression Benefit Assessment District Renewal Proposed. ....	5
Library Department .....	5
The Return of the Solstice Painting.....	5
Book Club in a Bag.....	6
Sale of Donated Books.....	6
Parks and Recreation Department.....	6
No Place for Hate .....	6
"Muni" Celebrates Its 50th Birthday with Special Deals for Golfers.....	6
Concerts in the Parks. ....	7
Fourth of July.....	7
Franceschi Park Work Day.....	7
Butterfly Garden Planting Day.....	7

Police Department .....	8
Tactical Patrol Force at Work. ....	8
Public Works Department .....	8
American Public Works Association (APWA) Awards.....	8
Tracing Contamination of Streams and Beaches.....	8
Save Water, Time and Money!.....	9
Waterfront Department .....	9
Two for One Harbor Event: Swap Meet and Hazmat Turn-In. ....	9

## Key Meetings

**City Council Meetings** June 10, 17, 24, and July 1. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

**Planning Commission** June 12 and June 19. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 1 p.m.

## Community Events

June 15: Father's Day

June 21: "Solar Flair," Annual Summer Solstice Parade. For more information, go to <http://www.solsticeparade.com/>

July 4: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, State Street, 1p.m. Santa Barbara Symphony and Choral Society, County Courthouse, 5 p.m. Fireworks at West Beach, 9:30 p.m. City Offices closed.

**Flags on State Street:** [www.santabarbaradowntown.com](http://www.santabarbaradowntown.com)

June 9 to 16: Flag Day

June 16 to 23: Solstice

June 23 to July 3: Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens

July 3 to 7: Independence Day

## City Administrator's Office

**What's Going on Inside Santa Barbara?** Watch City TV's award-winning news magazine show, *Inside Santa Barbara*. This episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* includes Plan Santa Barbara, Operation Clean Sweep, Bohnett Park Groundbreaking, Carrillo Recreation Center

Table Tennis, and All Things Bike: the Mission Street Bike Path, Bi-C Centro, and Bicycling in Santa Barbara. You can watch **Inside Santa Barbara** on Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 p.m. You can also watch the show online at [www.citytv18.com](http://www.citytv18.com). For more information, call City TV at 564-5311.

**Commute Smart: The Long Ride Home.** The average commuter in Santa Barbara County spends 42 minutes a day driving to and from work - that's 8 days a year spent in our cars! And with construction on the Highway 101 expansion project starting this summer, more traffic delays can be expected. If you're currently driving alone, don't miss the **Commute Smart: The Long Ride Home** special feature highlighting long-distance commuting options. In this television special, you'll see how any business can develop its own commuter benefits program. To watch the show online, go to <http://www.citytv18.com/CommuteSmart.htm>. For more information, call 564-5311.

**Tune into the Garden Wise Guys.** In Episode 10 of the *Garden Wise Guys*, Billy Goodnick and Owen Dell offer valuable landscaping information with a twist of humor. The Wise Guys illustrate how a home garden can address climate change issues. In their search for "Big Carbon Footprint," the Wise Guys will point out carbon-loaded items like imported hardscape and PVC pipe - then they offer more sustainable solutions. Next, they premiere a new game show called "The Greenest Loser" that will open your eyes to the impacts gardening can have on the planet. Finally, you'll get an extended "Plant Spotlight" on trees that will show you examples of beneficial and beautiful trees that help to pull pollutants from the atmosphere. Check out the broadcast schedule on [www.citytv18.com](http://www.citytv18.com). For more information, contact Tony Ruggieri at 564-5311.

## Airport Department

**Airport Receives FAA Outstanding Airport Award!** Santa Barbara Airport Director Karen Ramsdell was presented with the *Outstanding Airport Award* by Mark McClardy, Manager, Airports Division Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Western Pacific Region, on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the annual FAA conference. Each year, one airport in the region receives recognition for exemplary efforts in developing aviation safety and infrastructure. The plaque for SBA states, "In recognition of outstanding leadership in the successful resolution of significant challenges leading to successful improvements to the Runway Safety Area."

**Passenger Count Up Slightly.** In April, there was a 0.7% increase in passenger usage at SBA over the same month last year. Over 260,000 passengers have arrived and departed during the last four months for a total year-to-date passenger volume increase of 2.7% compared to 2007. The highest average load factors are aboard the flights to Dallas (American Eagle) and Seattle (Horizon Air).

## Community Development Department

**Planning Commission.** Planning Commission meetings are scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and July 10<sup>th</sup>. More significant upcoming items that are tentatively scheduled include:

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will hold a scoping hearing to take public and Commission comment on what should be included in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for proposed new playing fields, community center, off-leash dog park, picnic areas, BMX track relocation and other park facilities. The Commission will also make recommendations to City Council regarding the Regional Housing Needs Allocation to the City and will hold a hearing to take comments on a Draft EIR for a price-restricted housing project at 535 East Montecito Street.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will consider a proposed mixed-use project at 800 Santa Barbara Street. The Commission will hold a scoping hearing for an EIR on the proposed Sandman Inn development, involving demolition of the existing hotel and construction of a new hotel with the same number of rooms and over 70 condominium units, at 3714 State Street. The Commission will also consider initiation of a General Plan amendment for the westerly side of the 600 - 800 blocks of Milpas Street that would change the designation from Residential, 12 units/acre, to Commerce, which would match the underlying Commercial zone and almost all of the existing development.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will make comments on UCSB's Long Range Development Plan Draft EIR. The Commission may also consider the Storm Water Management Plan's Draft Technical Guidance Manual. The Manual will provide assistance to developers in designing water quality and drainage improvements for their projects.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will consider initiation of a new joint Specific Plan for Mission Canyon.

## **Finance Department**

**April TOT down 8.6%.** After eight months of the fiscal year, transient occupancy tax (TOT) revenue is up just 1.6% over the prior year. Our fiscal year-end forecast for TOT, developed in January, is for 2% growth. We will need 4% growth in May and June in order to meet that year-end projection.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%
Aug	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%
Sept	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%
Oct	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%
Nov	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%
Dec	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%
Jan	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%
Feb	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%
Mar	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	999,202	4.7%
April	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	956,805	-8.6%
May	1,001,438	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%		
June	1,158,018	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%		
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,081,510</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>\$ 12,032,372</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>\$ 12,691,167</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 10,551,747</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 10,684,900</b>		<b>\$ 11,504,200</b>		<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>		<b>\$ 13,581,500</b>	
Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).								

## Fire Department

***Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District Renewal Proposed.*** On June 17, 2008, the City Council will consider renewing the benefit assessment district within the City's high and extreme fire hazard zones, which was originally approved by the property owners in the area in 2006. This past year the fuel reduction work that was performed within the district resulted in significant improvements in the overall fire safety of the area. Over 14 miles of road clearance was completed (removing over 400 cubic yards of flammable vegetation), in addition to over 80 tons of tree and brush trimmings being chipped for the property owners within the district. The chipping effort resulted in 97% of the material being re-used as ground cover, leaving a nominal amount of vegetation (exotic pest plants such as ivy and scotch broom) needing to be hauled away as green waste. This wildland fire mitigation effort has been a great example of an effective private/public partnership, with individual property owners deserving much of the credit for assuming the responsibility of creating a defensible space around their homes.

## Library Department

***The Return of the Solstice Painting.*** After an almost 20-year absence, a painting by local artist Michael Gonzales and founder of the Solstice parade, *Summer Solstice Celebration, 1981*, has returned to Santa Barbara. Originally sold by the artist in 1988, the painting was in a personal collection in Australia for two decades. It has now been gifted to the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and will be displayed permanently in the Santa Barbara Central Library. The dedication took place on May 1 (the artist's birthday and the day of the first Solstice Parade) at the Library. Mayor Marty Blum officiated and the public was invited to celebrate with a birthday cake for the artist.

**Book Club in a Bag.** Everything a typical book club needs for their next “read” can now be checked out by one member in a convenient book bag. The Central Library has 13 “Book Club in a Bag” kits, each made up of 10 copies of a paperback book, a copy of the book on CD (for many titles), a short biographical sketch of the author, two book reviews from respectable sources, a set of discussion questions to get the conversation going, and library bookmarks. The Friends of the Santa Barbara Library donated the attractive book bags and the funds to purchase many of the materials. An additional two titles per month are planned.

**Sale of Donated Books.** The Central Library held a one-day sale of old, rare and valuable books on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, netting \$5,500. The book sale consisted largely of fine art books, photography books and rare reference sets, as well as old newspaper and magazine sets. Books signed by Carl Sandburg and Willem de Kooning, and other signed and first edition books were also offered, including items that were donated to the Library but were too specialized or valuable to add to the library collection.

## Parks and Recreation Department

**No Place for Hate.** The Santa Barbara/Tri-Counties Region of the Anti-Defamation League recognized over 30 schools and organizations at a ceremony on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Santa Barbara County Education Office auditorium to promote respect for individual differences while challenging bigotry and prejudice in their communities. This year the Santa Barbara region launched the Community of Respect™ initiative designed to provide tools and resources to help individuals and organizations combat prejudice, bigotry and discrimination, and engender respect and appreciation for diversity. The City of Santa Barbara, along with the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, the Coalition Against Gun Violence, the Family Service Agency, Casa Pacifica and the First United Methodist Church were acknowledged for building a Community of Respect™. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Library organized a variety of activities and workshops for this event in the months of April and May.

**“Muni” Celebrates Its 50th Birthday with Special Deals for Golfers.** The Santa Barbara Golf Club (“Muni”) opened for play with its first tournament on January 12, 1958. In order to commemorate 50 successful years and honor the golfers who have supported this public course, a number of golf specials are available from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Fabulous 50 Fridays:** \$50 per person package includes 18 holes of golf before 11 a.m., cart and box lunch from Mulligan's.

**Two at Twilight After 5 Special:** \$50 for two persons includes 9 holes of golf and dinner at Mulligan's (selected menu).

**Play More Contest:** There will be prizes for the top five golfers who play the highest number of 18-hole rounds from June 1 through August 31. Players must be 18 or over to qualify. Applies to both weekday and weekend play. First prize is 50 18-hole rounds of golf for free (good through 2011).

**Lucky Birthday Bonus:** Golfers born in 1958 will be given a free Resident Discount purchase if they do not already have one, food for a discount off each round of golf at Muni.

In addition to these promotions, a special **Double Shotgun** golf tournament is planned for Saturday, September 13, to honor Richard Chavez, golf pro, who is retiring after 28 years and to celebrate Muni's 50<sup>th</sup>. The \$50 entry includes greens fees, cart, tee prize and a barbeque lunch

at Mulligan's. There will be at least five hole-in-one prizes on par 3 holes, including cars and other prizes. A noon ceremony will honor players from the original opening tournament in 1958, employees of the golf course and Pro Shop and other guests. A no-host cocktail party at Mulligan's will be held in the evening to celebrate the career of Richard Chavez.

For information on any of these specials or for a Double Shotgun entry form, call the Pro Shop at 687-7087 or go to [www.sbgolf.com](http://www.sbgolf.com).

**Concerts in the Parks.** Another exciting season of free Concerts in the Parks is just around the corner! Eleven concerts will be held in two of the City's most beautiful parks - Chase Palm Park and Alameda Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner and enjoy the great variety of musical performers each week!

Concerts at Chase Palm Park will be held on Thursday evenings, 6 to 8:30 p.m. This summer's schedule includes: Opening Concert, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Maria Muldaur; July 10th, Coldwater Canyon (Honky Tonk Country); July 17, Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries (50s and 60s Rock and Roll); July 24th, Soul City Survivors (Hot Buttered Soul); August 7th, Leokane Pryor and Friends (Songs of Maui); August 14, Lisa Haley and the Zydekats (Cajun/Zydeco); and August 21st, Raymond Michael (Tribute to Elvis).

Concerts at Alameda Park are Sunday afternoons, 3 to 4:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows: July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Mari Martin Band (R&B, Soul, and Rock n' Roll ); July 13, the Gilberto Gonzalez Band (World Music); July 20, CRV (Classic to Modern Country); and July 27th, Kaleo Naea (Traditional Hawaiian Music).

For more information please call 897-1982. See you in the parks!

**Fourth of July.** Mark your calendars for this year's Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 4. The fireworks display sponsored by the City will take place at West Beach at 9:30 p.m. with a 20-minute show by Pyro Spectaculars. Fireworks are preceded by SPARKLE's 2008 Freedom Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. at West Beach featuring patriotic and family-friendly entertainment. The public is encouraged to come down to the waterfront early in the day and enjoy the food, arts and craft vendors along Cabrillo Boulevard. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on State Street starts at 1 p.m. The Santa Barbara Symphony and Santa Barbara Choral Society entertain at the courthouse beginning at 5 p.m. Special shuttle and MTD bus service is available; information is at [www.sbmtd.com](http://www.sbmtd.com).

**Franceschi Park Work Day.** The Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee and the Riviera Homeowners Association, hosted a workday at Franceschi Park, 1501 Franceschi Road on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The clean-up will focus on an area of the park where a new planting demonstration bed will be installed highlighting many of the plants introduced by Dr. Francesco Franceschi nearly a century ago. Stop by and see the spruced up park when you have a chance. To find out about volunteer opportunities, call 564-5484.

**Butterfly Garden Planting Day.** A successful volunteer planting day was held on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden. Butterfly-friendly plant material was installed to a planter bed along the Arrellaga Street side of the garden. Master Gardeners were also on hand to teach proper planting techniques. Well-known Landscape Architect Grant Castleberg

designed this planter bed. Everyone is encouraged to visit the garden and enjoy this City treasure.

## Police Department

***Tactical Patrol Force at Work.*** The Santa Barbara Police Department Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) consists of five officers and one Sergeant. Of the five officers, three are dedicated to bike patrol and two are dedicated to foot patrol downtown. One of the foot patrol officers has the additional duties of Restorative Policing, which means dealing with long-term solutions with transients in the downtown and beachfront areas. Our Tactical Patrol Force provides bicycle police presence during both daytime and nighttime hours. The Tactical Patrol Force also coordinates with the City's street crews to clean up illegal campsites.

Our Tactical Patrol Force were very busy during the month of May. Up to May 25<sup>th</sup>, TPF made 10 felony arrests, 47 misdemeanor arrests, wrote 167 misdemeanor citations, nine traffic cites, 30 parking cites, 28 field interview cards, and handled 46 calls for service in addition to their regular duties. The Tactical Patrol Force is dedicated to combating street crime in order to create a safe community for all to enjoy.

## Public Works Department

***American Public Works Association (APWA) Awards.*** Annually, the APWA gives recognition through their *Project of the Year Awards*. On May 17, 2008, Principal Engineer John Ewasiuk attended the 40<sup>th</sup> APWA Central Coast Chapter awards dinner in Santa Maria, where he accepted two awards on behalf of the City.

This year, the City received an award for the Santa Teresita Storm Drain Replacement Project in the Disaster or Emergency Repair/Construction Projects less than \$2 million category. The innovative project involved horizontal directional drilling with seamless pipe to attain a long-term drainage solution in a particularly challenging area of the City. Work was designed by City Engineering staff, competitively bid, and constructed in three months, prior to the significant rain that fell in the last rain season. Congratulations to the Engineering Design and Construction staff for a job well done.

The APWA Central Coast Chapter created an Honorable Mention category specifically for the second award. The Public Works "Jeopardy" video was an entertaining look at our Quarterly Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Report. This video was presented to City Council and starred the Public Works Department's Joshua Haggmark, Acting Principal Engineer. A brief portion of the video was played at the awards dinner to an enthusiastic reception. The APWA President was so impressed by the video that he requested a copy and recommended that the video be submitted for the APWA National Awards. Congratulations to Joshua Haggmark and Acting Wastewater System Manager John Schoof for their excellent work. Also, thanks to City TV Channel 18 for producing yet another award-winning video.

***Tracing Contamination of Streams and Beaches.*** Concentrations of fecal-indicator bacteria in urban streams and ocean beaches in and around Santa Barbara occasionally can exceed public-health standards for recreation. The United States Geological Survey (USGS)



used an approach that combined traditional hydrologic and microbiological data, with state-of-the-art genetic, molecular, and chemical tracer analysis.

The USGS has found that most fecal bacteria in the urban streams came from storm-drain discharges, with the highest concentrations occurring during storm flow from sources such as outdoor water use and urban runoff. Research also found bird fecal material that accumulates in kelp and sand at the high-tide line. Low levels of human-specific *Bacteroides*, suggesting fecal material from a human source, were consistently detected on area beaches. One potential source, a local sewer line buried beneath the beach, was found not to be responsible for the fecal bacteria.

The USGS is providing the City with the data we need to address one of our area's most significant water-quality issues. We now have a better understanding of the sources of the contamination so we can devise effective solutions and use our limited financial resources in the best manner."

**Save Water, Time and Money!** Free rain sensors are now available from the City of Santa Barbara. Rain sensors automatically shut off the sprinkler timer during and immediately after it rains, thus saving tremendous amounts of wasted water. There are two options to receive a rain sensor: receive a voucher of up to \$50 and purchase a rain sensor from an approved list, or receive a free rain sensor with a brief training on how to install it. Rain sensors save an estimated 11,000 gallons of water a year. For more information, call 564-5460, or go to [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water).

## Waterfront Department

**Two for One Harbor Event: Swap Meet and Hazmat Turn-In.** On Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, local boaters enjoyed a "two for one," when the Waterfront Department combined its third nautical swap meet with its first hazardous materials turn-in event. The idea was to accommodate boaters clearing out their dock boxes and boats in preparation for the summer boating season, and providing a means to sell or buy the good and get rid of the bad.

Undertaken in partnership with the Harbor Merchants Association, which provided free refreshments, the swap meet drew 38 vendors, plus hundreds of buyers and "window shoppers." Sales included kayaks, outboard motors, sport fishing tackle, sailboat rigging and lots more. The swap meet is planned again for next year.

The hazmat event was equally successful. Local boaters turned in over 300 gallons of paints and thinners, along with various amounts of gasoline, used oil, acids and batteries to a station where they were separated by category and loaded in a truck supplied by Black Gold Industries.